

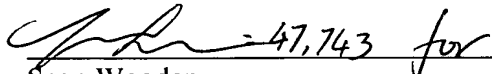
Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested and examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 13, has been amended as follows:

An integral part of the SCM functionality may be the ability to record and maintain a history of events, by logging both SCM configuration changes and task execution events through the log manager 334. The log manager 334 may manage a log file and take log requests from the DTF 340 and write the requests to the SCM log file. SCM configuration changes may include adding, modifying and deleting users and nodes in the SCM module 110, and creating, modifying and deleting node groups 132 and tools 240. An example of task execution events may include details and intermediate events associated with the running of a tool 240. An example of task execution is described in United States patent application of Lister, Sanchez, Drees, and Finz, Application Serial No. 09/813,562 entitled “Service Control Manager Tool Execution”, and filed on [the same day herewith] March 20, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference. The details that are logged may include the identity of the user 210 who launched the task, the actual tool and command line with arguments, and the list of target nodes 130. The intermediate events that are logged may include the beginning of a task on a managed node 130, and exceptions that occur in attempting to run a tool 240 on a node 130, and the final result, if any, of the task. The exit code, and standard output (stdout) and standard error output (stderr), if they exist, may also be logged.

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line 9, has been amended as follows:

There may be three parts to independent tool integration. The first part is for the new products to be integrated to create their own tool definition file and provide software product’s tools 240. An example of a tool definition is described in United States patent application of Lister, Sanchez, Drees, and Finz, Application Serial No. 09/800,316, entitled “Service Control Manager Tool Definition”, and filed on [the same day herewith] March 6, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference. The tool definition file may define software tools 240 to be executed by the users

210. Only the CMS 100 needs to know the tool definitions. Tool definitions may be added or modified by calling the mxtool command. To create the tool definition file, the tools 240, either SSA tools or MSA tools, may need to provide server software, referred to as server filesets, to be installed on the CMS 100. The server filesets are any filesets in the new products that need to be installed on the CMS 100 for the tool integration to process. The software product's tools 240 may be a set of software commands and files that may be delivered to the managed nodes 130 (described later in part three).